

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1568

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10418

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MARC BECAM, STATE

SECRETARY FOR LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES (MINISTRY OF

INTERIOR)

1. BORN IN BRITTANY IN 1931, BECAM GRADUATED FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE IN ANGERS WITH A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING. AFTER WORKING AS A COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT IN HIS NATIVE FINISTERE, HE BECAME ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FINISTERE FEDERATION OF FARMERS IN 1959, A POST HE HELD UNTIL 1967.

2. BECAM ENTERED POLITICS IN 1967 AS SUPPLEANT TO UDR DEPUTY EDMOND MICHELET; WHEN MICHELET BECAME PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER IN MAY 1967, BECAM REPLACED HIM IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNTIL MAY 1968. AFTER NEARLY A YEAR WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (AUGUST 1968-JULY 1969), BECAM REENTERED THE ASSEMBLY (JULY, 1969) WHEN MICHELET ONCE AGAIN JOINED THE GOVERNMENT. HE WAS REELECTED ON HIS OWN IN MARCH 1973 AND HAS ALSO SERVED AS QUIMPER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL
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SINCE THAT TIME. BECAM'S MOST RECENT SUCCESS WAS HIS MARCH 1977 VICTORY IN THE QUIMPER MUNICIPALS; HE WAS ONE OF ONLY THREE MAJORITY CANDIDATES NATIONWIDE TO CAPTURE A LARGE CITY FROM AN INCUMBENT LEFT MAYOR.

3. BECAM WAS AFFILIATED WITH EDGAR FAURE UNTIL LATE 1973 AND ACCOMPANIED FAURE ON HIS VISIT TO THE USSR IN

1973. HE HAS SERVED SINCE 1970 ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT, AN INFORMAL CLUB OF DEPUTIES LED BY FAURE. BECAM DISTANCED HIMSELF SOMEWHAT FROM FAURE FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S COMMENTS IN 1973 ON THE INUTILITY OF THE FORCE DE FRAPPE. HE HAS PRESIDED OVER THE PARLIAMENTARY STUDY GROUP FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE JULY 1974 AND ALSO WORKED ON THE STUDY GROUP ON LIVESTOCK.

4. BECAM HAS ALSO SHOWN INTEREST IN DIVERSE PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS HOUSING, MEDITERRANEAN POLLUTION, AND THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF FRENCH SOCIETY. HE VISITED THE US IN MARCH/APRIL 1974 UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM. BECAM HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED A YOUNG DEPUTY WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE; HIS VICTORY IN QUIMPER HAS BOOSTED HIS STOCK EVEN HIGHER. LONG PLAGUED BY A FEUD WITH PS DEPUTY LOUIS LE PENSEC, BECAM APPEARS TO HAVE BURIED THAT HATCHET IN THE INTEREST OF COLLABORATION ON ISSUES OF REGIONAL INTEREST. HIS CURRENT POST APPEARS TO BE BECAM'S ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THE REGIONAL PARTICULARISM WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED HIS CAREER. IF HE MAKES A GO OF IT, HE MAY JOIN RAYMOND MARCELLIN AS ONE OF THE FEW BRETONS TO HAVE IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL SCENE.
GAMMON

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